

DSSVELE CEEL

ABSTRACT

A low-power audio CD player for portable computers permits operation of the CD-ROM
subsystem when power is not being supplied to the computer subsystem. In one embodiment of
the invention, the computer subsystem comprises a system CPU, a digital-audio generating
circuit, a digital computer bus coupling the CPU and the digital-audio generator circuit, and a
digital computer bus controller. The CD audio subsystem comprises an audio device capable of
playing an audio CD and coupled to the digital computer bus controller, an audio amplifier
circuit coupled to the audio device, and an audio interface coupled to the digital computer bus in
parallel to the digital computer bus controller and the audio device. The audio interface is
adapted to generate signals to operate the audio device and play the audio CD when power is not
being supplied to the computer subsystem or to the CPU. In method form, a method for playing
an audio CD in a computer system comprises deenergizing a computer CPU; and controlling,
using an audio interface coupled to a digital computer bus in parallel to a digital computer bus
controller and an audio device capable of playing an audio CD, the audio device and a computer
audio amplifier to play an audio CD without supplying energy to the CPU.